



Gord DuFresne is this guy from Oakville, that has been one of the most helpful and grounded kids in the Toronto area scene. He started out working with a local youth group in Oakville that was really a front for putting on shows at their local YMCA. But this group did some presentations, every show had some connection to a grassroots organization, and the proliferation of Oakville bands could be directly attributed to this group's activities. Gord furthered his love for hardcore with a label called Anima. Anima was known for some duds, but I remember Anima for the DRIFT/JONAH split and the only "Food not Bombs" comp worth listening to, with such great bands as SWALLOWING SHIT, PALATKA, ANOMIE, and KATHODE. Gord has always had this one great character trait in that he refuses to let good ideas die. After he moved to Toronto, he took on the record ordering for Who's Emma keeping the store afloat. It really sucked when he decided to move to Montreal, but upon his return he came back with the ideas of a new label and a few releases in the works. My name is Stephanie Perry and I co-host a weekly hardcore radio show called "Equalizing-X-Distort" and I had a chance to talk to Gord about the first year of Deranged Records and the label's plans. Photos of DS-13 by Gord Deranged.

**When did Deranged records start?**  
This particular label started just over 1 year ago, last September. It was in the works prior to that time but since I was living in Montreal and knew that I was about to move, I decided to put things

on hold until I re-settled in Toronto. It's been a busy year, and its going to get a whole lot busier...promise.

**How did the BORN DEAD ICONS ep come about? Who are BORN DEAD ICONS (BDI)? How did this ep come about? Will they be doing more stuff with the record? I thought that Deranged was suppose to be putting out the LP that DeadAlive released entitled "Work". What happened with that?**  
BDI and I have been friends for well over 5 years. I've worked with their previous band, DRIFT, and I've always enjoyed their music. It was kind of funny because at first no one really paid attention to them; then they recorded the demo and people took notice. It was an awesome demo. Once that came out, I was on their case about doing a record with me. They were looking for someone to release their record and it was pretty natural to have it on Deranged since we worked together in the past and both lived in the same city.

**As far as Deranged doing more releases with BDI, its very uncertain at this point, with all the nice things they had to say about me in MRR #212 (January). I'm not sure if I even want to work with them. I'm happy to report that we are still on good terms. Some of the stuff they said about me in that interview was totally unfair and untrue. They made me sound like a total fake and a cheap ass corner cutter, which is difficult for me not to take personally.**  
Yes Deranged was supposed to release the "WORK" LP that came out on DeadAlive. The band and I were not happy with the way the 7" came out, mostly for sound quality reasons. At the same time, I was pushing the band to have their demo released on vinyl somewhere in the future so we thought of re-recording the demo and the 7" on a 12" format. DeadAlive also wanted to get involved and do this release as a split label release. I was not too interested in that since I didn't know Jon at the time but the band wanted him involved. The band had already loosely committed to another project with DeadAlive (a BDI / FROM ASHES RISE ep) and as a compromise, the band decided to have Jon / DeadAlive do that LP and have Deranged do the next LP. I was cool with that idea.

**What was the whole controversy with BORN DEAD ICONS regarding the mastering of their ep? The record sounds great what is their beef about?**  
Their 7" does NOT sound great. There were two main reasons that caused such a poor sounding record. 1) the recording did not come out that good. I gave the band about \$500 (US FUNDS) to record their 7" and the sound was weaker than the demo which they recorded in the comfort of their own space for less than \$150. Problem #2, the mastering. Their 7" was mastered by Aardvark who did a shitty job. It cost me about \$180 to get mastered (not \$50 as mentioned in the BDI interview) which is pretty cheap but the reason I used Aardvark was not to save a couple bucks but because I knew some decent labels were using them. DeadAlive did the DEAD NATION (DN) LP there and that sounded great. Youngblood has done stuff with Aardvark in the past and even Hydrahead used them. For the record, I

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no longer use Aardvark. I used Metropolis a couple times, still not satisfied so from now on, I'm only using GOLDEN mastering who is responsible for the majority of the SST catalog. I've also recently changed pressing plants so the vinyl quality should also improve. The TEAR IT UP 12" ep is the first Deranged released to be mastered and pressed by the above and the test presses sound amazing.

**And then you released this amazing band from Sweden called DS-13? How did you find out about DS-13? How would you describe them? Will you be doing any other releases by bands from Sweden?**

I was at this ASSUCK show about 3 years ago and some Swedish kid with pink hair had their 7" for sale. I liked the look of the 7" but since he was hanging out at the LOCUST table, I hesitated, fearing that it might be a one-song re-mix record or something silly like that. So I didn't get it. Later that night, my friend Imantz mentioned how great that record was and so I took a chance and bought it. That was the 2<sup>nd</sup> press of their first 7" on Busted Head records. I've been in love with them ever since. I remember playing that record to Yannick back in Montreal and even he liked it so I knew that I had to get in touch with the band and find out more about them. Christoffer (a.k.a. 138) and I have been writing / e-mailing for over 2-years now. At that point, both of their split 7"s had been recorded. I told them about my label and its direction and somehow this LP came out. Around that same time, Havoc repressed their first 7" for North America and the rest is punk history.

DS-13 have been compared to loads of bands, anything from AGNOSTIC FRONT to MINOR THREAT. Musically the whole 80's DC thing definitely comes to mind, but they mix in plenty of crust and humor. I simply like "fast, fucked and furious". Can't go wrong with that as a sound (or a description).

They are currently working on a second full length which they will be releasing themselves. I've been on their case about having a North American press for that one since their records do so well in the states and the majority of the distros are USA based. If that ever happens, I presume it will be either Deranged or Havoc who will do it. So long as there is a North American press, I'll be happy.

About other Swedish bands, I've also confirmed a 12"/CD with EPILEPTIC TERROR ATTACK which has already been recorded. I've also been trying hard to do something with AMDI PETERSENS ARME from Denmark. They may not be Swedish but they share a commuting bridge to Malmo, so it's close enough. They're such a great band. Just recently did an interview with them for MRR. Their first 7" destroys. I guess they are going on tour soon and recording a new 7", which should also be on Kick 'n Punch. I am trying to release the first and the yet to be 2<sup>nd</sup> 7" on a 12" format for North America, but at this point nothing is confirmed, just high hopes. Look out for this band.

It might also be relevant for me to mention that both DS-13 and Putrid Filth Conspiracy carry my releases. PFC is actually going to start taking larger numbers just to make sure that my releases are available in Sweden.

**Will the INTENSITY material be new or previously released? When is the INTENSITY record expected to come out?**

The INTENSITY LP is all NEW material. The members of the bands have real busy schedules juggling other bands, tours, labels, etc. They recorded some new songs which they were not totally happy with, so they are rearranging some of these songs and recording some newer ones in February for this LP. Should be a kick ass record cause the original recording session (which they weren't happy with) is awesome so I presume this new recording will be that much better. Its heavy, fast, and powerful.

As far as when it is supposed to come out, its punk rock so you never know but Rodrigo did mention they were planning on recording in February and since most of the songs have already been written a few months back, there should be no real delays.

**All the releases you currently have out represent a departure from your previous label? Can you explain what your first label was and what kind of bands you released? How do you distinguish Deranged Records as different from Anima Records?**

My first label was called ANIMA. It focused mostly on some of my friend's bands at that time in my life. I was glad to be doing something but I rarely listened to my own releases and well nothing really memorable came of it. With Deranged, I guess you could say I had an idea of what my releases should sound like but to this day, this "sound" is pretty flexible. I would love to release some more punk stuff and even some emo if it was good. When I say good emo, bands like HUSKER DU, THE HATED, FUNERAL ORATION, JAWBREAKER, SOULSIDE, SUPERCHUNK and LEATHERFACE come to mind. So when I decided that I wanted to focus on a more straight-forward hardcore sound, I decided to drop the old label name and reputation (good or bad) and start from scratch.

**The UNITED SUPER VILLAINS was recorded last summer. What happened to delay the release of this? What has been the reaction**

to the record so far?

Yes there was some definite delays with that fine piece of wax, most of which had to due with artwork. Though I still don't really like the cover artwork (but the band is into it so whatever, that's my problem), my computer guy put a lot of work into cleaning it up making it negative ready. Lots of delays like me and my lady buying a house and thus moving locations once again, getting ready for the DS-13 tour, computer guy/Bubby's work and 3 band rehearsal schedule etc. The main delay with all my project has to do with getting the artwork negatives



ready, I don't know much about computers so I have to rely on Bubby's expertise to get that shit done. I'm hoping to eventually have enough time to

take some classes and learn how to do layout / design so I don't have to rely on anyone. Thanks to USV for putting up with all those delays and Bubby for all is help.



The reaction to the USV LP has been amazing. People really like it, the reviews have been top notch and I've received plenty of great e-mails about it. They are a great band but have had a hard time getting the attention they deserve. Hopefully this LP will help. If they were x-members of such and such bands, they would be huge!

Will you be releasing the POLICE LINE material as advertised? What happened with this project?

At this point, the POLICE LINE 7" has been dropped, nothing against them but I didn't feel 100% about their recording and wanted to focus on the other 4-7 projects I had going at the time.

At this point, I have no idea who is going to release those songs.

I understand that you will be releasing material by RUINATION. Who are they and what will you be putting out of theirs?

At this point, there is nothing confirmed between RUINATION and Deranged. I like the band members and the music but nothing is happening between the two of us. They did ask me to be part of their LP project but it's a bit too retarded - even for me. They want like 10 labels from all over the globe to release the same record. Though I'd love to work with RUINATION on an LP project, this idea would cause me serious financial and distribution problems, which at this point, I can do without. Who the fuck knows? They might just be able to pull this off as well considering they live 9 hours from each other, recorded a decent 7" after 2 practices, and toured Europe 3 months after forming the band, so I guess a 10 label LP project is probably a walk in the park for these guys. They are a good bunch of people, Chris from LEFT FOR DEAD, Ebro from Chicago, Andy from +/- and Mike who is probably one of the few punks who can pull off wearing sweat pants on a regular basis (except for maybe the old DROPDEAD bass player).

Who is TEAR IT UP? What will you be putting out by TEAR IT UP?

If you don't know by now, TEAR IT UP is 4/5's DEAD NATION (DN) and their music is in the same vein as DN. As I write this, their 12" ep is getting pressed and printed and I presume it will be out once this interview is printed. It's by far the nicest looking record on Deranged to date. Ennie from LIFE'S HALT designed the cover and did a wonderful job. I am also doing a CD format entitled the "first four months" which will have their demo, the Havoc 7" and the Deranged 12". I can't keep up with those guys. I know they have one side 7" coming out on Uncle Slam and a split LP with EPILEPTIC TERROR ATTACK on DeadAlive, later this year. Their will also be a TEAR IT UP/ EXCLAIM split LP on Deranged but as to when this will come out, I don't know (as soon as EXCLAIM goes in to the stu-

dio, I guess).

How did you get EXCLAIM! (from Japan) to work with you? Will their material be new or re-issued? How do you deal with the translations issues of working with a band that speaks Japanese?

The repress of the EXCLAIM 2<sup>nd</sup> 7" has been confirmed,

but I don't have the DAT nor the new artwork yet so I won't believe it until I see it in my hands (but both should arrive soon). As with most of the bands on Deranged, I simply wrote the band and explained my intentions and that's how it usually starts. The first project I will have with them is the North American press of their 2<sup>nd</sup> 7" which was released in Japan on Straight Up Records. The second project I have lined up with them is a split LP with TEAR IT UP. This is confirmed but nowhere near completion (don't order, please). Communication between us is a little difficult but this great guy named AKIRA is my contact with them. He's not in the band but is a close friend of EXCLAIM's. If it wasn't for him, neither of the EXCLAIM projects would see the light of day.

Who is HAYMAKER? What are you to release by them?

HAYMAKER features the Jeff Beckmann who is responsible for pretty much all the LEFT FOR DEAD and CHOKEHOLD songs. He still writes most of the songs in HAYMAKER but he is the singer in this particular outfit. There are also some folks who were previously in the SWARM and BURST OF SILENCE, but who's counting. They pretty much sound like LEFT FOR DEAD. They've got a good thing going and have strong momentum. They just recorded a 7" for Deranged and are currently working on a 12". They also have a couple of tracks going on the next 625 "Barbaric Thrash" comp. and Deep Six "Reality part 4". Our 7" will be out very shortly. Definitely a band to look out for.

What else is in the works for Deranged?

Well I also have the OUTCOLD/VOORHEES 12" coming pretty soon. All the artwork is done and its ready to go but I have a few prior commitments to complete first. The songs are the same as the CD format, which barely saw the light of day in North America. I presume this vinyl release will help a little. Everyone knows VOORHEES,

but few know OUTCOLD and they've been around for a while now. They have 4 full lengths and are a top notch band. Hopefully this release will help them get some exposure. I am also working on a LAST IN LINE 7" which is also a repress of their now hard to find first 7". I am also slowly working, in co-operation with Schizophrenic records on a NEOS discography LP (vinyl format). Don't know

exactly when this is going to be out but the wheels are in motion. Is their a philosophy to Deranged Records or Deranged releases? Is there an underlying common theme or reason to why you would put out a record by a band?

The underlying philosophy is clear and simple: DIY punk/hardcore. I simply won't deal with assholes or idiots. I will not do grind or metal records. I will not do cute funny shaped records like 6" and pictures disks. I want my stuff to be accessible and fairly cheap.

I do this label simply because its my contribution to one of the few things in my life that still makes sense. I could never sing, nor play an instrument, so I do a label. I'm still learning but feel I am doing a decent job.

Do you have a website?

Yes, its not fancy, but it serves its purpose, which is to inform. My old friend Al is responsible for it, another one of my allies with this label. The site is [www.com-modehe.com/deranged](http://www.com-modehe.com/deranged).

Do you do a mailorder? How can people get your records?

I'll do mailorder if people order my records directly but my records are cheaper from Ebullition in the States (now my exclusive distro). In Europe you can try Jan/sentient at [www.poisonfree.com/sentient](http://www.poisonfree.com/sentient) and in Sweden thru Putrid Filth Conspiracy.

Any last comments?

Thanks go out to Bubby, Stephen, 138/DS-13, all the bands on Deranged, Martin, Becky, Jan, Akira, Al, and Rodrigo. I have loads of releases planned, keep your eyes peeled. Other than that, try to have fun, fun, fun.



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